



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Art Unit: 3612)
Examiner: Engle, Patricia Lynn)
Inventor(s): Dry et al.)
Serial No.: 10/749,155)
Filing Date: December 30, 2003)
For: MODULAR DOOR TRIM PANEL)
ASSEMBLY HAVING AN)
INTEGRATED SEAL AND METHOD)
OF MANUFACTURING SAME)

**RESPONSE TO REQUIREMENT
FOR ELECTION/RESTRICTION**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the Election/Restriction Requirement dated June 17, 2004.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING: (37 C.F.R. 1.8) I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on June 23, 2004, by Megan L. Schamanek.
Megan L. Schamanek

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 20 were originally pending in this application. The Examiner has required restriction to one of the following inventions under 35 U.S.C. §121:

- I. Claims 1 - 18, drawn to a modular door trim panel assembly, classified in Class 296, Subclass 146.5
- II. Claims 19 and 20, drawn to a method of making a door trim panel, classified in Class 264, Subclass 478

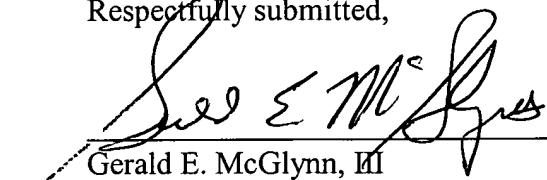
The Examiner found that the inventions are distinct, each from the other, because inventions I and II are related as process of making and the product made. More specifically, the Examiner found that the process as claimed can be used to make other and materially different products. In short, the Examiner asserts that the method could be used to make any mold using two materials. Furthermore, the Examiner found that the product as claimed could be made by another and materially different process. Specifically, the Examiner found that the product claims do not require injection molding. Thus, the Examiner asserts that the inventions I and II have acquired a separate status in the art, as shown by their different classification. Applicants respectfully traverse the Restriction Requirement.

The invention of group I is directed toward a modular door trim panel assembly having a molded substrate and at least one seal that is co-molded therewith. The invention of group II is directed toward a method of manufacturing a modular door trim panel assembly that results in the device described in group I. Applicants respectfully submit that the invention of group I could only be made by the method of group II. Accordingly, the inventions of group I and II are related and could all be searched together. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the Restriction Requirement is improper and should be withdrawn.

Nevertheless, in reply to the Examiner's requirement, applicants provisionally elect to prosecute the invention of group I, claims 1 - 18, drawn to the modular door trim panel assembly.

Finally, it is respectfully submitted that the claims clearly distinguish over the prior art, and are therefore allowable, which allowance is respectfully solicited

Respectfully submitted,



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